

I am commenting in opposition to the proposed FCC rule change which would allow a single company to own both a TV station and a newspaper in the same community. Allowing further media consolidation will not serve the public interest.

I am originally from Oklahoma City. Like all but the very largest cities, Oklahoma City has only one major metropolitan newspaper: the Daily & Sunday Oklahoman, whose owner, billionaire Edward L. Gaylord, has no compunctions about "spinning" the news to fit his political ideology. Oklahoma City desperately needs other points of view represented in the media, to ensure that no one individual can control what her residents are allowed to see and hear in the news.

Besides the wholly predictable result of a single company controlling a town's TV stations, radio stations, cable company and only newspaper, elimination of this rule will essentially signal the absorption of the newspaper business into the television industry, with a negative impact on the quality of print journalism. Newspaper companies "see savings in news gathering by combining with TV stations as a big plus," an industry analyst told the L.A. Times (9/14/01), giving an indication that the newly merged megacompanies would provide communities with less news, not more.

Thank you for accepting my comments.